



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Falls Church City Council Proclaims January as National Mentoring Month**

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – At its regular meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, the Falls Church City Council issued a proclamation declaring January as National Mentoring Month in the City of Falls Church. The Council urges citizens and businesses to volunteer as a mentor for the City's youth.

Mentoring is a proven, effective strategy matching a caring, responsible adult with a student to provide guidance and build confidence, stability, and direction for children. Research has shown that mentoring has a definitive impact on young people by increasing attendance at school; improving rates of high-school graduation and college attendance; and decreasing involvement with drugs, alcohol, and violent behaviors.

The City's Aurora House is currently looking for volunteers to tutor girls in the evenings. Aurora House is a community based group home for girls ages 13-17 that provides the nurturing, structure, and support necessary to help court-involved female adolescents through the difficulties they experience. Aurora House also gives girls and their families the opportunity to make positive changes toward a brighter future. Anyone interested in volunteering should call 703-237-6622 (TTY 711).

The City has also established a Mentoring Work Group comprised of general government and school staff to develop a mentoring program specifically for at-risk City youth. A recently conducted informal poll suggests there are more than 50 youths, aged 9-16, who would be referred for a mentor if such a program were available. For more information, contact Earl Conklin at 703-241-7652 (TTY 711).

The City is working with the Fairfax Partnership for Youth (FPY) to promote awareness, involvement, and support for the mentoring of youth. FPY is a public-private partnership dedicated to providing support and opportunity for young members of the community. For mentoring opportunities with FPY, call 703-324-5701 or visit [www.fairfaxyouth.org](http://www.fairfaxyouth.org).

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[www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov)

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